

## EJ Summit

Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Moderator** – *Henry Lancaster*, former Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs for NC DENR.

- He'll provide our bio.
- 5:15 Four community people come to the mic and share concerns: duplin, bladen, pender, Sampson
- 5:45 We (about 10 representatives from state government) each have 3 minutes to respond. (Share what my role is to address issues, share something about my work community would want to know.)
  - Jeremy Tarr, Governor's Office
  - Shelia Holman, DEQ Assistant Secretary
  - Michael Abraczinskas, DEQ, Director, Division of Air Quality
  - Ellen Lorscheider, DEQ, Solid Waste Section Chief
  - Representative Robert Reives, NC Legislature
  - Representative Amos Quick III, NC Legislature
  - Reuben Blackwell, Rocky Mount City Council
  - Waiting to confirm a few more legislators
- 6:15 Q&A with community members and panelists
- 6:30 Mingling/depart

### Talking Points (3 minutes)

- *Express appreciation for the community members' prior comments*
  - Thank you for sharing so honestly with us.
  - All families deserve to have confidence in their drinking water
- *Explain my role*
  - Policy advisor. Advise Governor's Office and Administration on energy, environment, transportation issues.
- Public support and concerns are important factors in the Administration's decision making
- To that end, part of my job is to
  - Be aware of issues that are important to you
  - Understand why issues are important to you and other constituents
  - Digest information and relay your concerns/experiences internally
  - Connect you with departments so that they can hear your concerns first hand and share critical information with you
- Ways I engage with stakeholders
  - Phone calls and meetings with community members, organizations, and businesses
  - Receive letters from constituents and organizations on various topics
  - Join meetings with departments and stakeholders on specific topics
  - Public forums

- I have met with some of you already. I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you. Feel free to reach out to me.

### Potential Q&A Topics

#### CAFOS

- It's helpful to hear your concerns.
- Governor vetoed the private nuisance bill. Legislature overrode the veto.
  - Law caps damage awards in nuisance lawsuits involving hog farms at the reduction in FMV of the property affected or the fair rental value
  - Gov Statement: "The agriculture and forestry industries are vital to our economy and we should encourage them to thrive. But nuisance laws can be used to protect property rights and make changes for good. We used nuisance laws to force the Tennessee Valley Authority to stop air pollution from flowing into North Carolina and we won damages to improve air quality. Special protection for one industry opens the door to weakening our nuisance laws in other areas which can allow real harm to homeowners, the environment and everyday North Carolinians."

#### GenX

- Families deserve to have confidence in their drinking water.
- Governor actions
  - Got the company to stop discharging compounds into the Cape Fear River
  - Directed his administration to investigate the discharge of GenX and other compounds
  - Directed HHS and DEQ to
    - Determine current concentration levels, which are now below the GenX health goal
    - Establish a health goal for GenX
    - Understand historic exposure and impacts
    - Explore and pursue legal remedies
    - Identify other contaminants being discharged
    - How to address the larger issues of emerging contaminants
    - Make sure residents with wells contaminated by GenX get drinking water
  - Talked with federal leadership at CDC and EPA to secure their support
  - Convened an expanded Science Advisory Board – toxicologists, public health experts, and others
    - to look at GenX and other emerging compounds
    - SAB will also look at hexavalent chromium
    - First meeting on October 23 (Monday)

#### Coal Ash

- Families deserve to have confidence in their drinking water
- Duke Energy can solve immediate and long-term concerns of families with well water tainted by coal ash by connecting them with municipal drinking water

- Larger issue: must safely deal with existing coal ash while moving toward other sources of energy so less coal ash is being produced.

#### ACP

- DEQ and other departments are reviewing state permit applications and ensuring they have all information needed to evaluate the applications against permit criteria established by federal and state law.
- I have heard many concerns by community members and relayed them to the Governor, including concerns about lower property values, explosions, air pollution, minimal job creation, noise from the proposed compressor station, etc.